



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR    | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/402,524      | 10/05/1999  | KEITH REYNOLDS WEHMEYER | RCA 88321           | 6047             |

7590 03/22/2007  
JOSEPH S TRIPOLI  
THOMSON MULTIMEDIA LICENSING INC  
PO BOX 5312  
TWO INDEPENDENCE WAY  
PRINCETON, NJ 08543

|          |
|----------|
| EXAMINER |
|----------|

LONSBERRY, HUNTER B

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

2623

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE  | DELIVERY MODE |
|--|------------|---------------|
| 3 MONTHS                               | 03/22/2007 | PAPER         |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/402,524

Applicant(s)

WEHMEYER ET AL.

Examiner

Hunter B. Lonsberry

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments filed 8/14/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Witek has no disclosure or suggestion of a master set of categories. Witek does not envision or describe that online classified ads are independently stored and independently searched. As a result there is no need for Witek to convert any categories into a master set of categories as no user will be searching more than one newspaper set of ads, and there fore no user will need a master set of categories. Applicant provides a number of citations within Witek to support that Witek searches only a single newspaper. Applicant notes that a separate database server exists for each newspaper. Applicant notes that multiple newspaper discussion is limited to revenue and good will without each newspaper having assume the burden and cost of setting up and maintaining a web server. Applicant further argues that the newspapers merely implement the codes to provide the desired names/descriptions for the categories/subcategories represented by the numerical codes, and that a useful means for providing the category/subcategory names is a lookup table. (Pages 7-10).

Regarding applicants argument, Witek explicitly states the following at column 18, line 33 "Since as noted above and as illustrated in FIG. 3, the category identification

and subcategory identifications 48, 50, respectively, are numerically coded, it is possible, in accordance with the invention, to adjust the descriptions of the categories and subcategories presented to suit the tastes both of the newspaper and/or users of the system. Additionally, where multiple newspapers are provided in the system, use of numerical coding permits different category and subcategory descriptions to be employed for each of the respective newspaper databases without requiring significant change to the database structure." Further beginning at line 46, "In such case, all that are needed are suitable lookup tables to relate the various descriptions presented in the search menus with numerical coding used by the respective databases." Thus it is via lookup tables that conversion is preformed to convert one set of categories (regional classifieds) to a master set of categories in order for them to be coded.

<http://www-128.ibm.com/developerworks/library/x-xsltip.html> defines a lookup table as: *Lookup tables, a common programming tool, efficiently transform one value to another.*

Further, as admitted by applicant, Witek discloses that there are multiple databases maintained, each for a corresponding newspaper (column 22, line 45-column 23, line 4) Rather the claim requires conversion of a first code (local description) to a second code (master description) in accordance with equivalence mapping information (the lookup tables disclosed in Witek) for allocating a category in a master set of program categories to said received program category. Witek clearly receives data from a number of disparate newspapers each of which may use their own category names, and discloses the use of the lookup tables in conjunction with sort functionality in order

to properly place the ads within the proper master set of categories (column 54, lines 6-35). As Witek clearly discloses lookup tables to convert from a local category description to a master category description, Witek, in combination with Klosterman and Schein teaches each and every element of claim 17.

Applicant argues that Witek, Klosterman and Schein are non-analogous art. Applicant argues that databases are used in fields that are widely disparate and clearly not analogous (pages 10-11).

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Klosterman discloses a system in which EPG information (database entries) from different sources are tagged with colors. Schein is directed to an EPG system (database entries) with categories. Witek discloses a system that is directed to collating listings (database entries) from different sources, and converting the category of each listing to a common category. Witek is merely relied upon to teach conversion of program categories to a

master program category, thus facilitating uniformity amongst common subject matter and making it easier to find desired content. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to combine the EPG systems of Schein and Klosterman with the conversion features of Witek in order to display the listings from various sources in common categories for easy retrieval and viewing by a user.

In response to applicant's argument that Witek is nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. See *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Klosterman discloses a system in which EPG information (database entries) from different sources are tagged with colors. Schein is directed to an EPG system (database entries) with categories. Witek discloses a system that is directed to collating listings (database entries) from different sources, and converting the category of each listing to a common category. Further, Klosterman, Schein and Witek are all concerned with the same problem, namely the retrieval and presentation of records to a user. All three references utilize database systems, and are concerned with the same problem and are thus analogous art.

Applicant's failure to properly traverse the official notices taken in the previous action is taken as admission of prior art.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 17-22, 27-33, and 35-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,923,362 to Klosterman in view of U.S. Patent 6,002,394 to Schein and U.S. Patent 6,253,188 to Witek.

Regarding claim 17, Klosterman discloses a video decoder system for receiving program guide information from a first source containing a first code identifying a program category, a method for collating program guide information from a plurality of sources, comprising the steps of:

Receiving program guide information from a plurality of different sources (column 2, line 65-column 3, line 10, column 4, line 48-column 5, line 14))

Utilizing mapping information to identify each channel and corresponding source (column 3, lines 29-47)

displaying said sorted and merged program guide information (column 7, lines 4-21).

Klosterman does not disclose forming a program map with a first code identifying a program and converting a first code to a second code for category information according to a master set of program categories.

Schein discloses a STB, which retrieves program guide information, displays program guide menu icons related to a theme, programs may be sorted by theme or category (Figure 7A/B, 16A, column 6, line 37-column 7, line 10, column 9, line 21-column 11, line 46, column 21, line 19-65), thus making it easy to find a program of interest by viewing programs by category.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Klosterman to utilize the program categories of Schein, thus making it easy to find a program of interest by viewing programs by category.

The combination of Klosterman and Schein does not teach converting a program category to an equivalent program category via a master set of program categories.

Witek discloses an automated internet classified system which receives classified ads from newspapers which may categorize listings in different forms, the listings are retrieved and then converted to a master set of categories prior to display (Figures 3, 7, 14, 15, column 12, line 49-column 13, line 13, column 18, line 33-62, column 52, lines 11-68), thus facilitating uniformity among records for common subject matter and making it easier to find desired content.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify the combination of Klosterman and Schein to utilize the equivalence



information via a set of master categories as taught by Witek, thus facilitating uniformity among records for common subject matter and making it easier to find desired content.

Regarding claims 18 and 20, Witek is relied upon for teaching receiving equivalence mapping information or utilizing prestored information (column 18, lines 43-57, column 52, lines 11-51).

Regarding claims 19 and 37, Witek is relied upon for teaching retrieving equivalence mapping information from a first source in order to convert codes of one service provider to those of another service provider (the equivalence matching information is stored and utilized on servers 16 and 20, column 17, line 25-column 18, line 62).

Regarding claim 21, Klosterman discloses a video decoder system for receiving program guide information from a first source containing a first code identifying a program category, a method for collating program guide information from a plurality of sources, comprising the steps of:

Receiving program guide information from a plurality of different sources (column 2, line 65-column 3, line 10, column 4, line 48-column 5, line 14))

Utilizing mapping information to identify each channel and corresponding source into user selectable menu options which are compatible with linking data

(channel/program selection from within the EPG which utilizes a channel map that identifies the channels and their sources, column 3, lines 29-47)

displaying said sorted and merged program guide information (column 7, lines 4-21).

Klosterman does not disclose merging the program guide information from the plurality of sources into a composite EPG defined by themes and topics of a master set of categories.

Schein discloses a STB, which retrieves program guide information, displays program guide menu icons related to a theme, programs may be sorted by theme or category (Figure 7A/B, 16A, column 6, line 37-column 7, line 10, column 9, line 21-column 11, line 46, column 21, line 19-65), thus making it easy to find a program of interest by viewing programs by category.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Klosterman to utilize the program categories of Schein, thus making it easy to find a program of interest by viewing programs by category.

The combination of Klosterman and Schein does not teach the use of a master set of categories by which the categories are merged.

Witek discloses an automated internet classified system which receives classified ads from newspapers which may categorize listings in different forms, the listings are retrieved and then converted to a master set of categories prior to display (Figures 3, 7, 14, 15, column 12, line 49-column 13, line 13, column 18, line 33-62,

column 52, lines 11-68), thus facilitating uniformity among records for common subject matter and making it easier to find desired content.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify the combination of Klosterman and Schein to utilize the equivalence information via a set of master categories as taught by Witek, thus facilitating uniformity among records for common subject matter and making it easier to find desired content.

Regarding claim 22, Klosterman discloses a combination DBS and CATV system that may also receive program guide information via twisted pair telephone line, antenna, or DBS dish (Figure 1a/b, column 4, lines 47-64).

Schein discloses connecting to the Internet.

Klosterman, Witek and Schein do not disclose retrieving program guide information from the Internet.

The examiner takes official notice that retrieving program guide information from the Internet via an ISP, and enabling interactive EPG functions, such as web pages related to a program, via a telephone connection is well known in the art. Internet connections allow a user to retrieve EPG information even during a service outage from a program provider

Therefore it would have been obvious to modify the telephone line of Klosterman, Witek and Schein to connect to an Internet service provider and retrieve program guide information, thus enabling interactive EPG functions enabling a user to learn more about a program even during a service outage from a program provider.

Regarding claim 27, Schein is relied upon to teach the use of an icon that performs a user requested function (column 20, lines 29-44).

Regarding claim 28, Klosterman discloses that EPG information may be transmitted in a packetized form with a header and information section, which are received and sorted with each other via a coordinator 20 (column 5, line 54-column 6, line 17).

Klosterman, Witek and Schein do not disclose allocating new PIDs to provide compatibility between the program guide and associated program content or associating the PIDs with menu items.

The examiner takes official notice that assigning new PIDs based on program source or a new program source is well known in the art and that associating PIDs with displayed menu items is well known in the art (for example video PIDs and Internet content PIDs). Program PIDs also allow for multiple streams of data to be transmitted over a single channel.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Klosterman, Witek and Schein to assign a new PID based on program source so that a master EPG would know which corresponding device and program stream a program is carried on and to utilize PIDs for different data types corresponding to menu items to enable video and Internet information to be carried on the same data stream.

Regarding claim 29, Klosterman discloses a combination DBS and CATV system (peripheral device) that may also receive program guide information via twisted pair telephone line, antenna, or DBS dish (remote device) (Figure 1a/b, column 4, lines 47-64).

Klosterman discloses an IRD box with a coordinator which is coupled to a cable box and a DBS system, which integrates the program guide information from the sources together and displays a color which corresponds to each source within the program guide, in response to a user query, (Figure 1C, column 2, line 65-column 3, line 47, column 4, line 48-column 5, line 14, column 7, lines 4-21).

Regarding claims 30-33, Klosterman discloses an IRD box with a coordinator which is coupled to a cable box and a DBS system, which integrates the program guide information from the sources together and displays a color which corresponds to each source within the program guide, in response to a user query, (Figure 1C, column 2, line 65-column 3, line 47, column 4, line 48-column 5, line 14, column 7, lines 4-21).

Schein is relied upon to teach icons.

The combination of Klosterman, Witek and Schein do not disclose enabling a user to tag a source by a color of their choosing from a continuous color spectrum consisting of a selected range of colors.

The examiner takes official notice that enabling a user to choose a color to define an attribute from a selected range of colors is well known in the art. Enabling a user to

Art Unit: 2623

choose a color to define an attribute from a selected range of colors, in order to allow a user to readily identify the source of programming in an atheistically pleasing manner.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify the combination of Klosterman, Witek and Schein to enable a user to choose a color to define an attribute from a selected range of colors, in order to allow a user to readily identify the source of programming in an atheistically pleasing manner.

Regarding claim 35, Schein discloses a PCTV system (abstract), which includes links in an EPG for Internet sites related to a TV program listing (column 7, line 60-column 8, line 8).

Klosterman, Witek and Schein do not disclose the use of an Internet icon, which includes access data for an ISP's telephone number and a URL for the additional content.

The examiner takes official notice that the use of an indicator which indicates Internet content and contains a URL for the content, and the use of a telephone number linking data is well known in the art. For example clicking on URL in windows when the device is not connected to the Internet, thus facilitating an automatic connection.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Klosterman, Witek and Schein to include an Internet icon and the associated access data, in order to enable a PCTV to access additional information regarding a program and allow a user to learn more about the program.

Regarding claim 36, Schein discloses a PCTV system (abstract).

Klosterman, Witek and Schein do not disclose formatting html webpages in an MPEG compatible format using PIDs.

The examiner takes official notice that utilizing PIDS to carry HTML data within an MPEG data stream is well known in the art. Program PIDs also allow for multiple streams of data to be transmitted over a single channel.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Klosterman, Witek and Schein to format the HTML data in an MPEG compatible format to utilize a high bandwidth video pathway for the delivery of data and enable video and Internet information to be carried on the same data stream.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Klosterman, Witek and Schein to format the HTML data in an MPEG compatible format to utilize a high bandwidth video pathway for the delivery of data.

Regarding claim 38, Klosterman discloses that EPG data may be retrieved via a twisted pair telephone line (column 4, line 59-column 5, line 15).

Klosterman inherently uses communication protocol codes as access data, as a communications protocol is required for the transfer of data.

Schein discloses that a regular modem connects via a telephone line to an online service provider for EPG information (column 5, line 66-column 6, line 8).

Schein inherently utilizes a telephone number, as a telephone number is required for a modem to specify a connection to another modem.

Regarding claim 39, Schein displays an EPG in figure 16a, the STB may be a PCTV (abstract), the decoder system may then display the video image on a computer monitor (column 6, lines 26-65).

Schein inherently utilizes pixel data to display a program guide on a computer monitor, as a computer monitor is a digital device.

Regarding claims 40-41, Witek is relied upon to teach retrieving content from multiple sources encoded with different categories, and using a lookup table to transform the category to a master category (column 18, line 33-49, column 54, lines 6-35).

Regarding claims 42-43, Schein discloses a number of non-program based user selectable menu options in figures 19-20, including email (figures 19b and c).

3. Claims 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,923,362 to Klosterman in view of U.S. Patent 6,002,394 to Schein and U.S. Patent 6,253,188 to Witek in further view of U.S. Patent 6,147,714 to Terasawa.

Regarding claims 23-25, Klosterman discloses the use of a DBS service to transmit EPG information and programs (column 4, lines 48-64).

The combination of Klosterman, Witek and Schein are silent regarding using MPEG formatted data and PIDs to identify EPG or other data.



Terasawa discloses that EPG data is multiplexed in an MPEG stream, and a packet ID header is mapped to the data, this header is then sorted and the EPG data is retrieved and stored (column 1, lines 16-27, column 3, line 66-column 4, line 39, column 14, line 66-column 15, line 30) and facilitate the transmission of many data types over a single channel.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify the combination of Klosterman, Witek and Schein to multiplex and utilize PIDs as taught by Terasawa in order to deliver EPG data via a satellite stream along with the video data.

Regarding claim 26, Klosterman discloses that EPG information may be transmitted in a packetized form with a header and information section, which are received and sorted with each other via a coordinator 20 (column 5, line 54-column 6, line 17).

Terasawa discloses utilizing PIDs to map MPEG and EPG data.

Klosterman, Witek, Schein and Terasawa do not disclose allocating new PIDs to provide compatibility between the program guide and associated program content or associating the PIDs with menu items.

The examiner takes official notice that assigning new PIDs based on program source or a new program source is well known in the art and that associating PIDs with displayed menu items is well known in the art (for example video PIDs and Internet

content PIDs). Program PIDs also allow for multiple streams of data to be transmitted over a single channel.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Klosterman, Witek, Schein and Terasawa to assign a new PID based on program source so that a master EPG would know which corresponding device and program stream a program is carried on and to utilize PIDs for different data types corresponding to menu items to enable video and Internet information to be carried on the same data stream.

4. Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,923,362 to Klosterman in view of U.S. Patent 6,002,394 to Schein and U.S. Patent 6,253,188 to Witek in further view of U.S. Patent 5,883,677 to Hofmann.

Regarding claim 34, Klosterman discloses the use of a DBS service to transmit EPG information and programs (column 4, lines 48-64).

The combination of Klosterman, Witek and Schein does not disclose presenting program content based on source.

Hoffman discloses in Figure 9a, a program guide that sorts and displays programs by source, for example CATV, Telcos and DBS, thus enabling a user to easily find a program of interest.


Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify Klosterman, Witek and Schein to sort by source, as taught by Hoffman, in order to enable a user to readily identify programming of interest.

### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hunter B. Lonsberry whose telephone number is 571-272-7298. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday during normal business hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on 571-272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Hunter B. Lonsberry  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2622